

PROJECT ASK: A 3RD GRADE
CURRICULUM BASED
STATE HOUSE GROUNDS TOUR AND ACTIVITIES

YVETTE ROWLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA PARKS RECREATION & TOURISM

1205 PENDLETON STREET
Columbia, SC 29201
PHONE: 803-734-2430
E-MAIL: yrowland@scprt.com

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The State Houses' Parks Recreation and Tourism History

The General Assembly established the State House Tour Service in 1966.

The State Development Board hired a woman to do the job. In 1967 the South Carolina General Assembly created the Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism (PRT), and the State Development Board evolved into this agency. The Legislators assigned this agency with three very specific tasks:

1. To foster and promote the State's emerging tourism industry.
2. To protect and promote South Carolina State parks.
3. To help communities plan and develop recreational opportunities for local residents.

Six years later in 1973, the General Assembly added the state recreation commission to PRT. PRT has gone through several organizational changes throughout its history along with the State House Tour Service.

Parks Recreations and Tourism Vision and Mission

The vision of Parks Recreation and Tourism is to shape and share a better South Carolina. Its mission is to encourage People to discover South Carolina through our Parks, Recreation and Tourism Resources; in order to improve the well-being of our citizens, while sustaining our natural Resources for future generations.

With this vision and mission in mind, PRT was divided into five divisions: The Directorate, The Administration Division, The Parks and Recreation Division, The Tourism Division and the Business and Community Development Division.

The State House Tour Service history abounds with many accomplishments: From helping to market and promote the State House through constituent services. A Video Tour was created to educate tourist about the buildings' legends and legacies. Brochures were developed to educate tourist about the history of the building inside and out. The brochures contained information

regarding the monuments, horticulture on the grounds and provided educational and informative self guided tours inside the State House.

The State House Tours Service has the honor to work with each one of PRT Divisions, and the opportunity to work directly under the supervision of three of these Divisions. The Tour Desk is now under the direct supervision of the Division of State Parks; The Tour Desk was challenged to find their direct niche with the State Parks System.

History of State Parks

The park system began under the South Carolina Forestry Commission by legislative action in 1934; the Commission provided Stewardship of the system until 1967 when management was transferred to the South Carolina Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism. The Parks and Recreation Division responsibility is to provide recreational activities based on preserving our natural resources, with emphasis on conservation, education and interpretation of the natural cultural and historical resources of the state. This is directly related to PRT's vision and mission.

The State Parks service has a tremendous responsibility for management, protection and promotion of some of South Carolina's most treasured resources. All State Parks activities are fostered through the basic principle of "Stewardship and Service", and reflect the State Park Service's mission: To encourage people to discover South Carolina State Parks by providing resource based recreational and educational opportunities that emphasize the conservation protection and interpretation of the States natural and cultural resources.

In order to fulfill the mission of the Park service and to effectively manage each operation the park service incorporated a set of five goals that serve as a valuable tool for the successful management and advancement of the Park Service mission. The Tour Service has incorporated three of these goals to help to establish their own mission.

The State Park system envisions a future that provides education and interprets services that maximizes South Carolina's position to capitalize on the desire for enriching educational experiences. Interpretation is the value-added piece of a site experience, a means to leverage your resources beyond their intrinsic value. It serves as an effective public relations tool that assists

in establishing an educated public. With this thought in mind, the South Carolina Parks service developed an interpretive program titled *Discover Carolina*. Much more than an educational initiative *Discover Carolina* is an opportunity to expand learning beyond the classroom. It is also, an opportunity that links the very essence of South Carolina-her unique natural and cultural resources- with her children.

The State House holds unique features that are indicative of South Carolina's natural and cultural heritage. The Tour Service offers an educational opportunity through guided tours inside the State House, but does not offer an educational opportunity about the grounds. The Tour Service has found its niche in the Park service *Discover Carolina* Program. A State House Grounds Tour has been an additional idea that has come about along the way.

- **Why A Grounds Tour?**

The Grounds at the State House have been said to be one of the best kept parks in South Carolina. The grounds are full with History, and is considered an untouched opportunity to share a unique educational

experience. The State House Tour Service already provides interior tours of the building; a ground tour will be an opportunity to provide a new service that will only enhance the current service. It will offer an educational opportunity that surpasses the traditional learning experience, turning the grounds into a living classroom.

(See appendix #1)

- **Who Will Be The Target Group?**

The South Carolina Tour Service welcomes over one hundred thousands visitors a year; of that number over forty thousands are elementary age children. The majority of the school age kids that visit the State House are in the third grade. One of the reasons for such a high number of third graders is because most kids in South Carolina began studying the States history at that grade level. The South Carolina State House incorporates past, present and future history about South Carolina. (See appendix #2)

- **What Standard Will The Tour Be Based?**

The *Discover Carolina* program provides two “Discovery Tracks” for experiencing South Carolina. One is to Discover Nature and the other is to Discover History. The State House is an interesting historical site. The South Carolina Department of Education has established curriculum standards for education in each subject for all school age kids K-12th grade. These standards were put into place to allow students to have a better understanding of their role as citizens of the state. After reviewing the South Carolina History/Social Studies standard for third grade, it was determined that the Grounds tour should be based on the following standards 3.2.4, 3.2.6, 3.2.7, 3.2.8, 3.2.10, 3.2.11 and 3.8.2

(See appendix #3)

The Project is a State House 3rd Grade-Grounds Tour with Activities. The Goal is to develop a curriculum based Tour with activity for 3rd graders to explore the grounds of the State House. The Tour will need to be flexible in its length of time. In the fall the Tour along with the activity can be up to one hour in length while in the spring it will need to be less than thirty minutes to accommodate time between tours. The Tour and activities will

be developed by January 30th and ready to implement for the school groups by August 2004.

The project manager will be the manager of the Tour Service and the following consultants: Assistance Director of the State Parks, Chief of Education and Interpretation for the State Parks, State Parks Historian, The State House architect, The Director of Horticulture Management, Department of Education Social Studies Coordinator, a Historian, and the Author of the Book Creating the South Carolina State House, and a South Carolina history major student from USC. (See Appendix #4)

The Persons who will perform the grounds tour will include the following; the Teachers, State House Tour Guides, and Park Rangers. Since the project will be an addition to our current programs, no substantial funding will be needed.

The Tour will begin as soon as the Students arrive. The teachers will have received information with their tour confirmation letter about 30 days before their scheduled tour. Included in the packet will be activities the students can do in the classroom before their tour, information the teacher can share

on the way to the tour, and information to share upon arrival. (See Appendix #5) Once at the State House, the teacher will check in and a guide will greet the group. The actual tour begins with a welcome to the State House and the tour guide's name. He/She will share a brief overview about the building. (See Appendix 5A) The group will follow a pre-planned route through the grounds. (See appendix #6)

After completion of the Grounds Tour the teacher will be given a survey to evaluate the tours success. The survey is then returned to The State House Tour Service. This survey will be the method used to continually develop and update the grounds tour information and the activity sheets. (See Appendix #7)

In order to define the State House Tours Service mission, PRT Vision will incorporate The State Park System Goals and aligned them with the task that the legislature has set forth for PRT.

The Tour Service Mission:

- To encourage people to discover South Carolina State House history through quality services.
- To serve as responsible stewards of the diverse natural and culture resources entrusted to the State House Tour Service.
- To maximize the effectiveness of the State House Tour service human resources in order to shape and share a better South Carolina while promoting South Carolina Tourism.

Appendix 1



Appendix #2

Summary of Attendance SC State House Tours Service

Fiscal Year	Total Attendance #	Student Attendance
1999	170,538	53,300
2000	159,177	47,922
2001	111,239	44,258
2002	117,500	45,991
2003	122,296	43,750

Appendix 3 CONTENT STANDARDS

Grade 3: Introduction to Social Studies/South Carolina Studies

Time, Continuity, and Change:History

The learner will demonstrate an understanding of the major developments in the history of South Carolina from the earliest human settlements through Reconstruction. The student should be able to explain reasons for the voluntary and involuntary settling of South Carolina by Europeans and Africans; discuss the cultural contributions of people from various regions of South Carolina; state the key events and effects of the Revolutionary War on South Carolina and his or her own community; discuss the development of slavery in South Carolina and its impact on the state; and state the key events and effects of the Civil War on South Carolina and his or her own community; and describe the Reconstruction Period in South Carolina.

Power, Authority, & Governance: Government/Political Science

The learner will demonstrate an understanding of the role of the citizen in South Carolina, including personal and civil rights and responsibilities. The learner will be able to describe state symbols through which American values and principles are expressed.

Appendix 4

Step-Outline	Complete
Meet with Supervisor to discuss project and get ideas	X
Begin surveying other State Houses	X
Meet with Chief of Education and Interpretation for State Park	X
Collect National Park Service Curriculum Development	X
Collect memorial articles	X
Meet with State Park Historian	X
Review Discover Carolina website	X
Review SC 3 rd grade history standards	X
Meet with The Arthur of book (Creating the South Carolina State House)	X
Review articles, website and curriculum development and brainstorm possible outline	X
Meet with State House Architect	X
Meet with Horticulture Manager	X
Meet with USC History major student	X
Call Historic Columbia Foundation	X
Meet with Department of Education Social Studies Coordinator	X
Pull together grounds tour and activity information	X
Develop a measuring method (survey)	X

Appendix 5

The South Carolina State House Pre-site/Teacher Led

Content Area: History Grade level: 3
Time to complete: Pre-site 45 minutes
Title of lesson: South Carolina's Symbols and emblems

South Carolina Standards:

3.2.10 State the key events and effects of the Civil War on South Carolina and his or her own community; and
3.2.11 describe the Reconstruction Period in South Carolina
3.8.2 Describe state symbols through which American values and principles are expressed

Lesson Description:

The following classroom assignment was designed for the teacher to discuss the different South Carolina symbols and their meaning. This activity should be completed prior to the field trip.

Focus Question:

What are symbols?
Why do we use symbols?
Are Monuments symbols?

Materials/Resources: Materials for pre-site activities will be mailed to you along with confirmation letters.

Work sheets about symbols

Picture of some symbols and emblems to discuss

Teacher Preparation: Complete steps in workbook and completes the pre-site activity prior to the field trip.

Procedures:

Activity 1

Show students pictures of some of the state symbols have them to discuss where they are from? Where you can find them? Look for places in their surrounding that display symbols or emblems?

Appendix 5A

The South Carolina State House On-site Interpreter Led

Content Area: History

Grade Level: 3

Time to complete: On-site 1 hour

Title of Lesson: South Carolina Symbols and Emblems

South Carolina Standards:

3.2.10 State the key events and effects of the Civil War on South Carolina and his or her own community; and

3.2.11 describe the Reconstruction Period in South Carolina

3.8.2 Describe state symbols through which American values and principles are expressed

Lesson Description:

This program will discuss The State House Grounds. After participating in a 1 hour on-site program and pre-site activities, students will have a better understanding about the State House, The Grounds and the people who serve our State and help to shape it into what it is today.

Focus Questions:

Monuments, what do they represent?

What time period do they represent?

The Monuments on the grounds when were they erected and why?

When was the State House built and why?

Materials/Resources

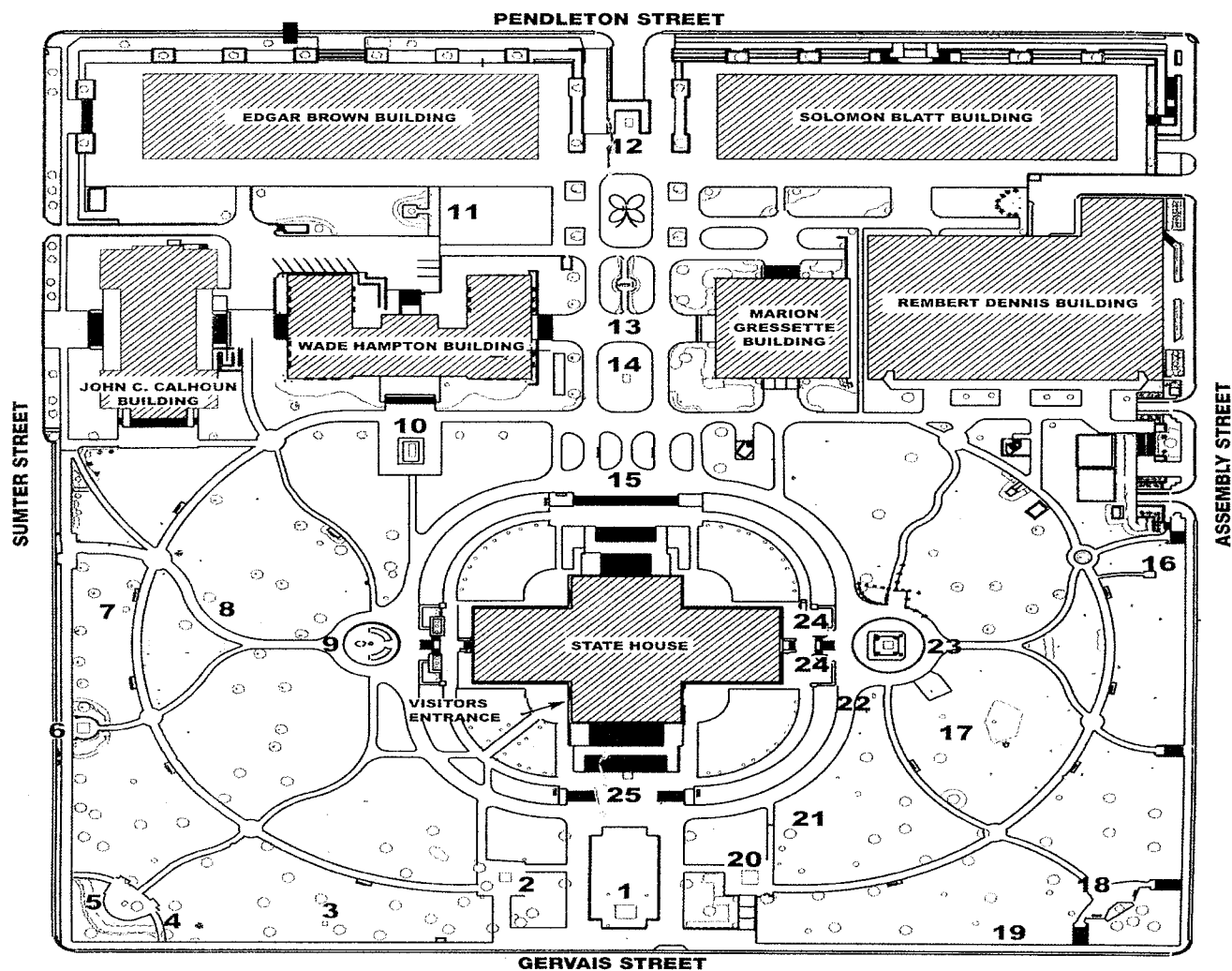
Drawing of the State House

Various Activities sheets

Teacher Preparation: Read lesson and activities completely and contact The State House Tour Service with any concerns or modifications. Implement pre-site activities several days before the scheduled program.

Procedures: On-site activities are interpreter Led

Appendix 6



A Brief overview along with a brief discuss will be held at each Monument.

First Stop: # 10	Wade Hampton Monument
Second Stop #9	African American Monument
Third Stop #5	James F. (Jimmy) Byrnes
Forth Stop #1	Confederate Monument
Fifth Stop #25	George Washington
Sixth Stop #23	Palmetto Regiment

Additional information about the Grounds will be given at the end of the Tour.

(Appendix #7)

In an effort to continually develop and update the grounds program, please complete the following information and return to the State House Tour Service. Your input is valuable to the improvement of our tour service.

Rate the Overall Tour Service

1-Excellent, 2-Good, 3-Satisfactory, 4-Poor

Tour Guide	_____
Time/Length of Tour	_____
Educational Value	_____
Pre-site Information	_____
On-site Information	_____
Your Enjoyment	_____

What is the age level of your group? _____

What did you find most informative about the tour and activity sheets?

What suggestions would you make to improve the Tour and/or activity sheets? _____

References

Websites:

http://www.sde.state.sc.us/offices/cso/social_studies/social.htm

http://www.myscgov.com/SCSGPortal/static/tourism_tem1.html

http://www.myscschools.com/offices/cso/Social_Studies/standards/Chapter2b_Gr3.pdf

http://www.sde.state.sc.us/offices/cso/social_studies/social.htm

Books and Newspapers:

The Vision for the 21st Century, SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

SC PRT Strategic Plan, SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

Employee Handbook, SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

State House Guide Leads Final Tour, The State Newspaper from 06/25/1979